

Floor Remarks of Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Amendment (in the Nature of a Substitute) to H. Con. Res. 376, as Reported  
CBC FY 2007 Alternative Budget  
May 17, 2006

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, this Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute seeks to offer to Congress and the American people an alternative budget that is fiscally responsible and is aimed at reducing disparities in America’s communities. The CBC alternative is proof that even modest changes can result in tremendous outcomes.

A top priority of the CBC is addressing the exploding deficit. We believe that if we do not control the budget today, we will not be able to afford Social Security and Medicare in the future. Our fiscal responsibility produces a balanced budget in five years -- in fact our budget will have a surplus of \$2.3 billion in FY 2011. Furthermore, it improves the deficit by an aggregate \$313 billion and results in a savings

of \$10.5 billion in interest on the national debt, compared to the Republican budget.

We did this by returning to a tax structure similar to the one we had during the 1990s, when the economy was strong, we created 20 million jobs, and the stock market was doubling every five years. But the rollback in tax cuts only effects that portion of an individual's income that exceeds \$200,000. Our revenue is used for critical spending and deficit reduction.

The CBC alternative is committed to making America more secure by supporting our military, investing in our homeland security, and caring for our veterans. It also adds to our security by funding initiatives such as juvenile crime prevention programs and prisoner reentry programs.

Some of the funding for national security, urgent homeland security needs, and veterans programs comes from a \$9.4 billion

reduction in Ballistic Missile Defense, better known as Star Wars. A portion of these funds has been reallocated to protect our troops in Iraq, increase the Army's troop level, maintain current National Guard strength, and provide an additional \$1 billion for Navy ships. Another portion of these funds is allocated to address vital homeland security needs, including port security grants. We provide an additional \$20 billion to improve veterans programs. We believe that the sum of all these initiatives will make us more secure as a nation.

On the domestic spending side, the CBC alternative builds for America's future and addresses the domestic challenges. It adds \$80 billion to education and job training programs. The CBC alternative also provides more funding for healthcare, social services, transportation and scientific research.

The CBC alternative recognizes that it is the responsibility of the government to assist in a natural disaster that devastates an entire region of our country. Our budget, therefore, provides funding for school and

college reconstruction and housing in the Gulf Coast and increased funding for the Army Corps of Engineers; furthermore, the Gulf Coast area shipyards will benefit from the \$1 billion in funding for Navy ships.

Mr. Speaker, another way of looking at the differences between the CBC alternative budget and the Republican budget is to start with the CBC budget and work backwards; in other words, what would you have to do to go from our budget to the Republican budget. First, you would have to repeal pay-as-you-go budgeting. Then you would have to cut body armor and other personal support equipment for the troops in Iraq, decrease the Army's troop level, reduce National Guard strength, eliminate \$1 billion funding for Navy ships, decrease port security and rail security grants, remove federal air marshals, delay first responder grants and cut \$20 billion from veterans programs, all to fund Star Wars and partially fund the Republican tax cuts for incomes over \$200,000. Next, you would have to cut \$80 billion out of education and job training and \$20 billion from health care, and reduce funding for housing, community services, NASA research, Amtrak, the Coast

Guard, college financial aid, NIH funding, foster care, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, housing, Medicaid, and juvenile justice and law enforcement grants, all to fund another portion of the tax cuts going to incomes over \$200,000. Third, you would have to borrow an additional \$300 billion, mostly from foreign governments, to fund the rest of the tax cuts for the wealthiest in our society. And at the end of five years, you would have to move from our \$2.3 billion surplus in the CBC budget to the \$163 billion deficit in the Republican budget. Mr. Speaker, that would indeed be working backwards.

Mr. Speaker, members of the CBC have worked tirelessly to create a budget that is fiscally responsible and recognizes the needs of American individuals and American communities around the country. It is a fiscally sound budget that protects and promotes the best values of America. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.